(ii) The subsidy on fertilizer is being paid only when it reaches the district;

(iii) Department of Fertilizers operates Bufffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

(iv) Department of Fertilizers has notified uniform freight subsidy scheme to transport fertilizers upto block level;

(v) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of Urea is met through imports;

(vi) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country;

(vii) The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing.

Price variation of drugs

946. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of unreasonable price variation of drugs, Government has decided to review its Drug Pricing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received spate of representations on variation in the prices of drugs and also on Government order of 2004-05 to reduce prices; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by Government on such representations and the manner in which Government proposes to remove variations in prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has held four meetings. However, after the formation of the new Government, the GOM has been re-constituted on 1.9.2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM makes its

recommendation to the Cabinet. At Present, the prices of medicines are being controlled as per DPCO, 1995 which was formulated as per Pharmaceutical Policy, 1994.

(c) and (d) References/representations received from individuals, Non-Government Organizations, State Drugs Controllers and Consumer fora are attended to promptly for appropriate and necessary action.

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the first schedule, and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fix or revise prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA. NPPA as part of its price monitoring activity, regularly examines the movement in their prices. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring price of non-scheduled formulations. Whenever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the specific manufacturers are asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed, conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Further, based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs were reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA since its inception. Monitoring and Enforcement of prices of medicines is an ongoing process and appropriate action is taken by NPPA, as and when considered necessary.

Import of pulses

947. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulses are being imported from various countries through different ports of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the import of pulses effected during the period 2008-09; particularly through the port of Kolkata; and

(c) the details of the off-take of pulses from the respective godowns for the purpose of PDS during the above period, godown-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per DGCIS data, 2.44 million tonnes of pulses was imported during the period 2008-2009. A quantity of 0.44 million tonnes of pulses was imported through the port of Kolkata.